

MEXICANS GIVE CONCERT IN GEN. PERSHING'S CAMP

From Four-Piece Orchestra Plays Some of National Airs for Soldiers.

WONDER AT MUSICAL TALENT

Each Day Finds New Uses for Army Aeroplanes, and Aviators Demonstrate Their Skill in Many Ways. Fear of Villa Wearing Off.

GENERAL PERSHING'S CAMP AT SAN GERONIMO RANCH, April 8.—(by aeroplane and motor car) to Columbia, N. M.—A Mexican peon four-piece orchestra gave an unexpected Sunday night concert in General Pershing's camp last night. It was the first house to which the American forces have been treated since they entered Mexico, more than two weeks ago.

The orchestra came into camp in a wagon, returning from a Sunday "federation" at a nearby ranch, and was halted by eager shouts of the soldiers just as the camp fires were lighting about the broad mountain-inclosed mesa which is the camp site. There was a vaquero driving the wagon, four musicians and three children in the small wagon box and a bass viol as big as an army soup-kitchen lashed on behind the wagon with hemp ropes. Besides the vaquero drove six women, ten arms filled with a heavy bundle, which seemed to hold several babies. The orchestra played a few selections for the soldiers, including the *Cucaracha*, the Villa marching song, the *Inquisitor* of which runs:

"The cockroach, the cockroach,

No longer can he roar,

Because he hasn't any."

Musician for his pipe."

General Pershing called the musicians over to his camp site, an open big tree, a cracked box for a chair and windbreak made of yellow scrub bushes, a mountain flower, the only foliage available, thick enough to shut off the sudden gales. There was no sign of wind when the orchestra ranged in a semicircle in front of the general. The campfire smoke rose almost perpendicular and sounds of camp cars died for great distances.

ASKED TO DAY SOME OF MEXICAN NATIONAL AIRS

"Play some of the Mexican national songs," said General Pershing.

The Mexicans played "La Gallardina" and then some Carmen selections.

Wonder was expressed at their musical talent for they were a ragged type of people, dressed in blue jeans, all except the vaquero, who stood at the head of the line, more ragged than all the rest but displaying a pair of leather chaps reaching nearly to his hips. At General Pershing's request one of them sang "Adelita," a favorite Mexican song.

This concert under the stars on a nearly featureless wilderness lasted for an hour. Then the Mexicans climbed into their wagon and drove across the plains.

Each day has found new uses for the army aeroplanes, for the first time began flights among the cliffs and crags of the peaks of the Sierra Tarahumara less than a week ago. It has been discovered that they are excellent pathfinders. The native scouts have not been entirely satisfactory and in a few instances when scouts could not give clear description of what trails lay beyond a ridge an aeroplane has come up returning with information which in a few minutes was transferred to a good trail and topographical map.

DEMONSTRATE SKILL OF ARMY AVIATORS

The planes have demonstrated the skill of the army aviators by daily adventures which they have pulled through safely. Two days ago an aviator was caught in a wind which blew off his goggles. He finished his ride with an eye blowing into his eyes.

Whenever they are on the ground the aviators keep in mind General Pershing's order to demonstrate the army's friendliness, and they have had some startling opportunities in this line landing among Mexicans who have never before seen any American military outfit. One of the machines stopped fifteen miles from a Mexican village. The aviator, knowing that curious natives would gather to examine the flier, and thinking of the easiest way to win their friendship on sight took out several boxes of hardtack for distribution. The present army hardtack is hard in name being a very pale-colored and chunky cracker, made without salt. The aviator told the Mexicans the crackers were "American bread without salt." After a few tastes the Mexicans shook their heads to indicate that hardtack did not appeal to them. These Mexicans then pointed out a mule, declaring with laughter that it was "Automobile Americano."

This aviator had some chocolate among his rations. He offered a piece of the dark material to a man on horseback with a serape thrown about his shoulders. The rider refused. The aviator told him it was chocolate, and placed a piece in the hand of a Mexican who seemed to consider it poison, for he threw it into the deep dust of the road. Then the aviator himself took a bite of the remaining chocolate and ate it. After watching closely the Mexican gave a shout, jumped from his horse and grabbed the discarded chocolate, eating it ravenously, dust and all.

Everywhere along this front the minds of the people seem to have been filled with suspicion against Americans. There is evidence that Villa himself, not only told the Mexicans that he would return to punish them for having anything to do with Americans, but that he also spread false rumors through agents all over this section of Chihuahua. In some villages where the Americans had not penetrated the Mexicans seem to expect an immediate reign of Villa in his full power. However, where the United States soldiers have had time to make themselves known, the fear of Villa seems to be wearing off.

COLE NEW COMMANDER OF A. P. HILL CAMP

Petersburg Sons of Veterans Elect Officers and Choose Delegates to Reunion.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

PETERSBURG, VA., April 8.—At the annual meeting of A. P. Hill Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, last night officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Commander, Wilson B. Cole; first lieutenant-commander, David A. Lyon; Jr.; second lieutenant-commander, E. H. Hoy; adjutant, L. A. Clark; treasurer, N. H. Cole; color sergeant, Herbert Straub; major, J. P. Wells; surgeon, Dr. W. P. Hoy; chaplain, Rev. E. P. Danbridge; historians, P. H. Drewry, S. D. Rodgers; Delegates to the reunion in Birmingham, Ala., in June, were chosen as follows: L. R. Godwin, W. P. Pease, L. A. Clark, N. H. Cole, and S. D. Rodgers. A rising vote of thanks was given the retiring commander, L. R. Godwin, in appreciation of his services rendered to the camp.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BOY SCOUTS.

Dr. M. Parker, chief surgeon of the Seaboard Air Line system, last night lectured to the Boy Scouts of Petersburg and gave them practical and detailed demonstration of first aid in cases of injury. The boys were greatly interested in both address and demonstration.

The Common Council failed to meet last night for the further consideration of the new license tax ordinance because of lack of a quorum. An adjournment was taken until Monday night to finish the voting.

Rev. J. B. Winn, D. D., the new pastor of Washington Street M. E. Church, will preach his opening sermon tomorrow. Dr. Winn comes to a community of old friends, having formerly served for four years as pastor of Washington Street Church.

He was restricted last night with pain in his nose and a decided drop in temperature.

Chief Captain of the Hopewell Police Department is in daily receipt of letters asking for information of men who have left their homes without giving their address and are supposed to be at Hopewell or the DuPont plant.

For the April term of the Hastings Court thus far there are a dozen or more felony cases on the criminal docket.

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES 900 PER CENT HIGHER

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Ocean freight rates on some commodities, particularly wheat, are 900 per cent higher than at the beginning of the war. A letter written today by Dr. E. G. Pratt, chief of the Foreign and Domestic Commerce Bureau, to Chairman Alexander of the House Merchant Marine Committee, considering the administration shipping bill, calls attention to the jump in rates and reviews the shipping situation.

Grain has led all commodities in the rapid rise in rates. From 41 cents a bushel in January, 1914, the rate has become 108 cents to-day from New York to Liverpool. From Boston it is some 5 cents cheaper. The higher rate from New York is attributed by Dr. Pratt to long delays and high demurrage charges due to congestion of grain at New York.

Cotton rates have increased at both the ports of New York and New Orleans nearly 900 per cent, but it is still cheaper to ship from New York than from New Orleans. On January 1, 1914, the New York rate was 42.25 cents a hundred pounds, and the New Orleans rate 41.

The cost of shipping the various other commodities is considerably higher at New Orleans than at New York. Wheat shipped from New Orleans is taxed 4.8 cents a bushel.

Comparisons between door rates from New York to Liverpool and from Seattle to Hongkong show that the New York rate advanced in two years from 15 cents to 90 cents and the Seattle rate from 35 cents to 15. Transoceanic rates on other food commodities increased little. Rates on steel products and agricultural machinery for shipment across the Pacific have mounted rapidly.

BALLY DAY IN PERSON.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., April 8.—The public schools of Essex County will hold a rally day at Tapahannock on Monday, April 24, when Superintendent of Instruction R. C. Stearns is expected to be present and make an address. Governor H. C. Stuart and Attorney-General John Garland Polk have also been invited.

Girl Instantly Killed.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., April 8.—Minnie Edwards, aged thirteen years, was instantly killed at Remington when pistol in the hands of little Ben Allen, aged ten years, at the home of Mrs. B. L. Allen, at that place, accidentally discharged. The little boy was playing with the pistol when his mother told him to take it outside. While he was extracting the cartridge, another held in play can against him, causing the pistol to discharge. The bullet entered the young girl's body near the heart.

Boots in every style that's good, from the ultra-stylish white ducks at \$5.00, to the white kids and calfs at \$10.00, and the smart gray kids, lace or button, at \$12.00. A maximum of beauty, fit, style and quality at every price.

SHOES

These are the interesting days, when Boots and Pumps vie for supremacy in millady's thoughts. Small chance that The Shopping Center will fail to supply her, whichever way her fancy leaps!

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